

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**Proposed Action:** Approve Drilling Permit (Form 22)

**Project/Well Name:** State 16-33

**Operator:** Baldwin Lynch Energy

**Location:** 9S-22E-16 NW SE

**County:** Carbon MT; **Field (or Wildcat):** North Clarks Fork

**Proposed Project Date:** 09/01/2021

### I. DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Baldwin Lynch Energy plans to drill a vertical oil well with a MD/TVD of 8,925' with the objective formation being the Lakota. Surface casing to be set at 900' and will be cemented back to surface.

### II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

#### 1. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS, OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC website (Carbon County Wells).

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES MONTANA COUNTIES, Carbon County

Montana Natural Heritage Program Website (FWP)  
Heritage State Rank= S1, S2, S3, T9S R22E

Montana Cadastral Website  
Surface Ownership and surface use Section 16 T9S R22E

Montana Department of Natural Resources MEPA Submittal

#### 2. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

No Action Alternative: The proposed well would not be drilled.

Action Alternative: Baldwin Lynch Energy would have permission to drill well.

### III. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

#### 3. AIR QUALITY

Long drilling time: No.

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No.

Possible H<sub>2</sub>S gas production: None anticipated

In/near Class I air quality area: No

Comments: No special concerns – using rig to drill to 8,925' TD.

#### 4. WATER QUALITY

Salt/oil based mud: Freshwater and freshwater mud system for drilling surface hole and production holes (Rule 36.22.1001).

High water table: No

Surface drainage leads to live water: No, an unnamed ephemeral drainage is located about ½ of a mile to the east and 1 mile to the west. The Clarks Fork Yellowstone River is located about 2 miles to the west.

Water well contamination: No, the nearest water wells are three domestic wells about 1 mile to the west and are between 35'-75' deep.

Porous/permeable soils: No, sandy clay.

Class I stream drainage: No.

Groundwater vulnerability area: No.

Mitigation:

☒ Lined reserve pit

☒ Adequate surface casing

☐ Berms/dykes, re-routed drainage

☐ Closed mud system

☐ Off-site disposal of solids/liquids (in approved facility)

Comments:

#### 5. SOILS/VEGETATION/LAND USE

Vegetation: Grassland.

Stream crossings: No

High erosion potential: Yes, large cut of 32.7' and large fill of 21.2' required.

Loss of soil productivity: No

Unusually large wellsite (Describe dimensions): No, 320' X 190'.

Damage to improvements: No.

Conflict with existing land use/values: None.

Mitigation

- ☐ Avoid improvements (topographic tolerance)
- ☐ Exception location requested
- ☐ Stockpile topsoil
- ☐ Stream Crossing Permit (other agency review)
- ☐ Reclaim unused part of wellsite if productive
- ☐ Special construction methods to enhance reclamation

Access Road: Access will be off of Hollenbeck Draw Road, a new access of 1,043' will be built into location from Hollenbeck Draw Road.

Drilling fluids/solids: Drilling fluid and drill cuttings will be allowed to dry by evaporation and then buried in pit.

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| <b>6. HEALTH HAZARDS/NOISE</b> |
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Proximity to public facilities/residences: No residences within a ½ mile radius.

Possibility of H2S: None anticipated.

Size of rig/length of drilling time: 3 to 5 days.

Mitigation:

- ☒ Proper BOP equipment
- ☐ Topographic sound barriers
- ☐ H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan
- ☐ Special equipment/procedures requirements
- ☐ Other:

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| <b>7. WILDLIFE/RECREATION</b> |
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Sage Grouse: In General Habitat. Sage Grouse analysis received 7/13/21.

Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified): None.

Proximity to recreation sites: None.

Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: No.

Conflict with game range/refuge management: No.

Threatened or endangered Species: Species listed as endangered or threatened in Carbon County are the Canada Lynx, Grizzly Bear, and the Western Glacier Stonefly. Whitebark Pine is a proposed species of concern. The Montana Natural Heritage Program lists twelve (12) species of concern: the White-tailed Prairie Dog, Merriam's Shrew, Grizzly Bear, Golden Eagle, Great Blue Heron, Greater Sage-Grouse, Pinyon, Loggerhead Shrike, Sage Thrasher, Brewer's Sparrow, Western Milksnake, and the Greater Short-horned Lizard.

Mitigation:

☐ Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)

☒ Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DNRC Trust Lands, **Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program**)

☐ Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite

☒ Other: Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Program to limit work times. Private grassland.

There may be species of concern that maybe impacted by this wellsite. We ask the operator to consult with the surface owner as to what he would like done, If a species of concern is discovered at this location. The Board of Oil & Gas has no jurisdiction over private surface lands. No concerns.

Comments: Private Grassland.

#### IV. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION

##### 8. HISTORICAL/CULTURAL/PALEONTOLOGICAL

Proximity to known sites:

Mitigation

☐ avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)

☐ other agency review (SHPO, DNRC Trust Lands, federal agencies)

Other:

##### 9. SOCIAL/ECONOMIC

Substantial effect on tax base

☐ Create demand for new governmental services

☐ Population increase or relocation

Comments: No concerns.

#### IV. SUMMARY

No long term impacts expected. Some short term impacts will occur, but can be mitigated.

I conclude that the approval of the subject Notice of Intent to Drill (does/**does not**) constitute a major action of state government significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and (does/**does not**) require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

**EA Checklist  
Prepared By:**

**Name:** John Gizicki

**Date:** 07/13/21

**Title:** Compliance Specialist